

REMARKS

1. Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-29 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. The Office Action set forth a restriction requirement requiring applicant to elect one of the following groups of claims for prosecution on the merits:

Group I: claims 1-20, drawn to an optical fiber
Group II: claims 21-29, drawn to methods of fabricating an optical fiber

Applicant hereby elects without traverse Group II directed to methods of fabricating an optical fiber. In view of this, claims 1-20 have been canceled herein.

2. Election of Species Requirement

The Office Action also sets forth an election of species requirement if Group II is elected. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the invention covers five distinct species as identified by the following groups of claims:

Species A: claims 21 and 24
Species B: claims 22 and 28
Species C: claims 23, 25, and 29
Species D: claims 26
Species E: claims 27

Applicant hereby elects without traverse Species A corresponding to claims 21 and 24. In light of this, claims 22, 23, and 25-29 have been withdrawn herein.

Applicant has also herein canceled claim 24; amended claims 21-23 and 26-29; and added new claims 30 and 31 to further clarify, more clearly define, and/or broaden the claimed inventions to expedite receiving a notice of allowance. Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed. As such, Applicant respectfully

submits that the amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested. Applicant further submits that the new claims are also directed to the elected Group and Species.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of claims 21, 30, and 31 as amended herein. Should the Examiner find any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any of the following fees that may be applicable to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178: (1) any filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16; (2) any patent application and reexamination processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17; and/or (3) any post issuance fees under 37 CFR § 1.20. In addition, if any additional extension of time is required, which has not otherwise been requested, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

Dated September 25, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

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